

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled).

8. (New) A method of manufacturing a shadow mask assembly, comprising:

applying a preliminary tension force having a magnitude in a range of 9.8 N to 490 N to each of four corners of an approximately rectangular shadow mask, the shadow mask having a perforation region including a plurality of through-holes, the preliminary tension force being applied in an outward direction aslant with respect to each side of the shadow mask;

after said applying of the preliminary tension force, applying a main tension force to each of a pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask in an outward direction perpendicular to the opposing sides; and

after said applying of the main tension force, fastening the shadow mask to side members of a support frame while the shadow mask is in the tensioned state, the support frame having an approximately rectangular shape.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

before said fastening of the shadow mask, applying compression forces to a pair of opposing side members of the support frame, the pair of opposing side members corresponding to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is applied, the compression forces being applied in directions such that a gap between the pair of opposing side members is narrowed, said fastening of the shadow mask to the side members of the support frame being performed while the compression forces are applied to the support frame.

10. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the preliminary tension force is applied in a direction within a plane of the shadow mask extended outward from an end of the shadow mask in a tangential direction, and in a direction inclined at an angle in a range of 15 degrees to 45 degrees with respect to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is to be applied.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said applying of the preliminary tension forces includes clamping the four corners of the shadow mask at a grip region located at each of the four corners, each grip region being bounded by both adjacent sides of the shadow mask and by extension lines of peripheral sides of the perforation region of the shadow mask.

12. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said applying of the preliminary tension forces includes placing engagement pins of a tensioning tool into engagement with engagement through-holes of the shadow mask located within a grip region at each of the four corners of the shadow mask, each grip region of the shadow mask having a quantity of 3 to 8 of the engagement through-holes, the grip region being defined by a first boundary line no less than 3 mm from the short-side edge of the shadow mask, a second boundary line extending from a peripheral side of the perforation region corresponding to the short-side edge of the shadow mask, a third boundary line along the long-side edge of the shadow mask, and a fourth boundary line extending from a peripheral side of the perforation region corresponding to the long-side edge of the shadow mask, each of the engagement through-holes having a diameter in a range of 3 mm to 8 mm.

13. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said applying of the main tension forces comprises applying each of the main tension forces to a portion of a range of the perforation region of the shadow mask.

14. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the main tension force is greater than the preliminary tension force.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the main tension force has a magnitude in a range of 980 N to 9800 N.

16. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the preliminary tension force is applied in a direction inclined at an angle in a range of 15 degrees to 45 degrees with respect to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is to be applied.

17. (New) A method of manufacturing a cathode ray tube, comprising:

manufacturing a shadow mask assembly by:

applying a preliminary tension force having a magnitude in a range of 9.8 N to 490 N to each of four corners of an approximately rectangular shadow mask, the shadow mask having a perforation region including a plurality of through-holes, the preliminary tension force being applied in an outward direction aslant with respect to each side of the shadow mask;

after said applying of the preliminary tension force, applying a main tension force to each of a pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask in an outward direction perpendicular to the opposing sides; and

after said applying of the main tension force, fastening the shadow mask to side members of a support frame while the shadow mask is in the tensioned state, the support frame having an approximately rectangular shape;

installing the shadow mask assembly in a cathode ray tube, the cathode ray tube including a flared tube body, an electron gun attached to a root portion of the tube body, and a front panel having a fluorescent internal surface, the shadow mask assembly being attached to an inside portion of the front panel; and

attaching the front panel having the shadow mask assembly attached thereto to a fore end of the tube body.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

before said fastening of the shadow mask, applying compression forces to a pair of opposing side members of the support frame, the pair of opposing side members corresponding to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is applied, the compression forces being applied in directions such that a gap between the pair of opposing side

members is narrowed, said fastening of the shadow mask to the side members of the support frame being performed while the compression forces are applied to the support frame.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the preliminary tension force is applied in a direction within a plane of the shadow mask extended outward from an end of the shadow mask in a tangential direction, and in a direction inclined at an angle in a range of 15 degrees to 45 degrees with respect to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is to be applied.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said applying of the preliminary tension forces includes clamping the four corners of the shadow mask at a grip region located at each of the four corners, each grip region being bounded by both adjacent sides of the shadow mask and by extension lines of peripheral sides of the perforation region of the shadow mask.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said applying of the preliminary tension forces includes placing engagement pins of a tensioning tool into engagement with engagement through-holes of the shadow mask located within a grip region at each of the four corners of the shadow mask, each grip region of the shadow mask having a quantity of 3 to 8 of the engagement through-holes, the grip region being defined by a first boundary line no less than 3 mm from the short-side edge of the shadow mask, a second boundary line extending from a peripheral side of the perforation region corresponding to the short-side edge of the shadow mask, a third boundary line along the long-side edge of the shadow mask, and a fourth boundary line extending from a peripheral side of the perforation region corresponding to the long-side edge of the shadow mask, each of the engagement through-holes having a diameter in a range of 3 mm to 8 mm.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said applying of the main tension forces comprises applying each of the main tension forces to a portion of a range of the perforation region of the shadow mask.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the main tension force is greater than the preliminary tension force.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the main tension force has a magnitude in a range of 980 N to 9800 N.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the preliminary tension force is applied in a direction inclined at an angle in a range of 15 degrees to 45 degrees with respect to the pair of opposing sides of the shadow mask to which the main tension force is to be applied.